

Remarks

Claims 1-19, 21-39 and 41 are currently pending. Claims 1, 10, 19, 27, 32, 33, 37 and 41 have been amended. No new claims have been added. Applicants assert that all claims are now in condition for allowance as set forth more fully below.

It should be noted that while amendments to the independent claims vary as noted below, no restriction is warranted in this case because, for example, recitations similar to those added to claims 1, 10, and 19 appear together within one claim such as claim 27. Therefore, to fully examine claim 27, the Examiner will also be required to fully examine all recitations of claims 1, 10 and 19.

Interview Summary

The undersigned participated in a telephone interview with the Examiner on January 12, 2005. During the interview, deficiencies in the Farris reference were discussed in relation to subject matter of the present invention. Namely, it was discussed that Farris fails to disclose real-time transfer of call records or dial digits to the switch master and computing system and fails to disclose transferring all call records or dial digits to the switch master over a given period of time. It was emphasized that Farris teaches a different method and system for the single purpose of providing communication monitoring capability for law enforcement for call specific data records on pre-identified individuals. In addition to being focused only on call records for specific individuals, Farris also teaches a method and system that does not operate in real time since the call records are queued for a period of time and then forwarded sometime later. The Examiner requested that such arguments be submitted in writing.

102 Rejections

Claims 1-19, 21-39 and 41 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Farris (US Pat 6,504,907). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

The Office Action rejects independent claims 1, 10, 19, 32, 33, 37 and 41 by stating that Farris teaches a method and a system that includes all of the elements. The Office Action equates units 20 (a regional accounting office billing system) or 17/19 (Tandems) of FIG. 2 of Farris to the switch master in claims 1, 10, 19, 27, 32, 33, 37 and 41. However, as discussed

below, there are several distinguishing aspects in relation to a switch master that must be acknowledged.

Claims 1-9, 17 and 18

Amended claim 1 recites, in part, receiving one or more dial digits from a plurality of remote telecommunication devices at a plurality of corresponding switches in communication with a switch master in real time relative to the termination of one or more telecommunications transactions, transmitting the one or more dial digits from the plurality of switches to the switch master in real time relative to the termination of one or more telecommunications transactions, wherein the switch master is in communication with computer system, and transmitting the one or more dial digits from the switch master to the computer system in real time relative to the termination of one or more telecommunications transactions. Thus, the transfer of dial digits from the switch to the switch master and from the switch master to the computer system is not done periodically in a batch after these dial digits are queued over a period of time, but instead are transferred in real time relative to the termination of the telecommunications transaction. These recitations of claim 1 are contrary to Farris.

The system and method of Farris teaches an exclusive, call specific monitoring system that does not operate in real time relative to the termination of at least one telecommunication transaction(s). For example, Farris teaches that the AMA records are queued in the local telecommunications switch (11,13, 14, 15) and batch processed such that they are only periodically transferred to the RAO after being queued. (See Col. 26, l. 55-65; Col. 27, l. 15-20). It also teaches that in some instances data tapes may have to be physically transported to RAO (20) for processing and those received by the RAO electronically must be edited, checked for integrity and loaded into the billing system for processing (See Col. 12, l. 39-56). Call records processed at the RAO must then be uploaded to a server for formatting as if they were regular billing records for further delivery to a law enforcement agency (See Col. 7, l. 40-45). Thus, no transfers to and from the RAO are done in real time relative to the termination of a telecommunications transaction.

Should the Examiner consider any of the STP's (21, 23, 25, 27), the Monitors (31), Card Cage (33) or Site Processor (35) to be a Switch Master, call records are captured in a Site Processor (35) are also periodically batch processed, (See Col 19, l. 52-59), such that the CDRs

are gathered into sets and the latest set is periodically sent to the server 39 as set forth in column 19. Periodically sending AMA records or CDR records to the server 39 and/or RAO 20 is not a real time transfer relative to the termination of the telecommunication transaction.

Accordingly, Farris fails to teach all the recitations of claim 1 and claim 1 is allowable over Farris for at least these reasons. Dependant claims 2-9, 17 and 18 depend from an allowable claim 1 and are also allowable for at least the same reason.

Claims 10-16

Amended claim 10 recites, in part, receiving all telecommunication call records from a plurality of remote telecommunication devices at a plurality of switches in communication with a switch master, transmitting all dial digits from the plurality of switches to the switch master, wherein the switch master is in communication with a computing system, transmitting all telecommunication call records from the switch master to the computing system, and storing all telecommunication call records in a database in communication with the computing system. Thus, all of the dial digits and call records are passed from the switch to the switch master and from the switch master to the computing system, as opposed to transferring only a select few of the call records. The recitations of claim 10 are also contrary to Farris.

The system and method of Farris teaches an exclusive, call specific monitoring system that cannot monitor all the call records generated by all telecommunications switches over an entire telecommunications system. For example Farris specifically teaches a law enforcement surveillance system that depends upon the pre-identification of a subject under surveillance and assigning a specific CLASS code to alert the system to capture those specific call records or dialing digits. (See Col. 7, l. 35-45; Col. 8, l. 48-52). Furthermore, the card cages (33) and site processor (35) filter out all records not associated with a surveillance. (See Col. 19, l. 40-45). Therefore, Farris teaches that only a limited number of call records are passed through the RAO or site processor and on to the server 39 for storage, as opposed to passing all dial digits and call records from the switch to the switch master and from the switch master to the computing system.

Accordingly, Farris fails to teach all the recitations of claim 10 and claim 10 is allowable over Farris for at least these reasons. Dependant claims 11-16 depend from an allowable claim 10 and are also allowable for at least the same reason.

Claims 19, 21-26

Amended claim 19 recites, in part, a switch master in communication with at least the telecommunication switch, a billing system and the computing system. The recitations of claim 19 are contrary to Farris whether one considers the RAO (20), Tandems (17/19), STP's (21, 23, 25, 27), Monitors (31), Card Cage (33), or Site Processor (35) to be the switch master.

The system and method of Farris teaches a Regional Accounting Office (20) in communication with only a telecommunication switch (11, 13, 14 or 15) and a computing system (39). First, a Regional Accounting Office (20) is not a switch master. It is a business office that houses the telecommunication network's billing system(s) (22). Second, if the Examiner considers the billing system(s) (22) to be a switch master, it is redundant to say that the billing system(s)(22) communicate with themselves, the computer system (39) and a telecommunication switch (11). Lastly, if the Examiner considers the Tandems (17 or 19) to be a switch master, neither Tandem does not communicate with a billing system(s)(22), the computer system (39) and a telecommunications switch (11). The same argument is true for the site processor (35), card cages (33), STP's (21,23) or the Monitors (31). Thus, Farris fails to disclose a switch master that is in communication with the three separate items including a switch, a billing system, and a computing system.

Accordingly, Farris fails to teach all the recitations of claim 19 and claim 19 is allowable over Farris for at least these reasons. Dependant claims 21-26 depend from an allowable claim 19 and are also allowable for at least the same reasons.

Claims 27- 30

Amended claim 27 includes recitations similar to those discussed above for claims 1, 10, and 19. In particular, claim 27 recites that all dial digits and all call records are communicated in real time from a plurality of remote telecommunications devices to the computing system via the switch master substantially instantaneously. Further it recites also generating a report in real time in response to a query. Still further it recites that the switch master is in communication with the telecommunications switches, a billing system and the computing system. As noted above in relation to claims 1, 10 and 19, these recitations of claim 27 are also contrary to Farris, and claim 27 is allowable over Farris for at least these reasons.

Claims 32 and 41

Claims 32 and 41 include recitations similar to those of claims 1 and 10. In particular, claims 32 and 41 recite that the computer readable medium causes the computer to receive all call records substantially instantaneously after termination of one or more telecommunications transactions, store them. Additionally, claim 32 includes generating a report in real time. As noted above in relation to claims 1 and 10, recitations such as these of claim 32 and 41 are also contrary to Farris, and claims 32 and 41 are allowable over Farris for at least these reasons.

Claims 33-37

Claims 33 and 37 also include recitations similar to those of claims 1, 10, 19. These recitations include a system for managing all telecommunications call records utilizing a switch master unit in communication with a plurality of communications switches, a billing system and a computer system where there is real time communication between the remote communications devices and the switches, the switch master, and the computer system. Furthermore, claim 33 further recites producing a summary of the telecommunication call records in real time. As noted above in relation to claims 1, 10 and 19, these recitations of claims 33 and 37 are also contrary to Farris, and claims 33 and 37 are allowable over Farris for at least these reasons.

Dependent claims 28-31, 34-36 and 38-39 depend from allowable claims 27, 33 and 37 and are allowable for at least the same reasons.

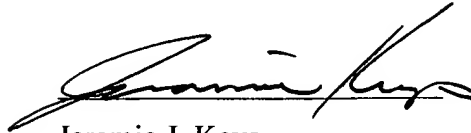
Conclusion

Applicants assert that the application including claims 1-19, 21-39 and 41 is now in condition for allowance. Applicants request reconsideration in view of the amendments and remarks above and further request that a Notice of Allowability be provided. Should the Examiner have any questions, please contact the undersigned.

No fees are believed due. However, please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-3025.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: January 24, 2005

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeramie J. Keys", written over a horizontal line.

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